Public Laws: 103rd Congress / 1st Session / Senate Bills / 1993 / File 1

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 242

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consult with State medical societies in revising the geographic adjustment factors used to determine the amount of payment for physicians' services under part B of the medicare program, to require the Secretary to base geographic-cost-of-practice indices under the program upon the most recent available data, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consult with State medical societies in revising the geographic adjustment factors used to determine the amount of payment for physicians' services under part B of the medicare program, to require the Secretary to base geographic-cost-of-practice indices under the program upon the most recent available data, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Geographic Data Accuracy Act of 1993".

SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCURACY OF GEOGRAPHIC ADJUSTMENTS USED TO DETERMINE PAYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS' SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) REQUIRING CONSULTATION WITH STATE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN REVISION OF GEOGRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.—Section 1848(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking "may revise" and inserting "shall, in consultation with each State medical society (or other appropriate organization representing the majority of the physicians who practice in a State), revise".

(b) BASING GEOGRAPHIC-COST-OF-PRACTICE INDICES ON MOST RECENT AVAILABLE DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(e)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) DATA USED TO DETERMINE INDICES.—In establishing indices under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use the most recent available data relating to practice ex-

penses, malpractice expenses, and physicians' work effort in the different fee schedule areas, and shall obtain and review the data in consultation with each State medical society (or other appropriate organization representing the majority of the physicians who practice in a State).".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1848(e)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(e)(1)(A)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking "and (C)" and inserting "and (D)".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2 shall apply to payments for physicians' services furnished on or after January 1, 1994.

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